

BEST AVAILABLE COPY**Amendments to the Claims**

The following claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-7. (canceled)

8. (previously presented) An isolated, recombinant or chemically synthesized polynucleotide encoding a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

9. (currently amended) An isolated, recombinant or chemically synthesized polynucleotide encoding a protein comprising a fragment of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 having human β -amyloid peptide binding activity, the fragment comprising the amino acid sequence from amino acid 68 to amino acid 269 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

10. (canceled)

11. (previously presented) An isolated, recombinant or chemically synthesized polynucleotide encoding a peptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 from amino acid 1 to amino acid 67.

12. (previously presented) An isolated, recombinant or chemically synthesized polynucleotide according to claim 11 wherein the sequence is the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 from nucleotide 1 to nucleotide 201.

13. (withdrawn) A probe or primer capable of hybridizing under stringent conditions to the polynucleotide according to claim 11 or the complement of said polynucleotide.

14. (withdrawn) A probe or primer according to claim 13 further comprising the nucleotide sequence of nucleotides 157-201 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

15. (withdrawn) A probe or primer according to claim 13 further comprising the nucleotide sequence of nucleotides 172-194 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

16. (currently amended) An isolated, recombinant or chemically synthesized polynucleotide comprising at least one expression control sequence operably linked to at least one polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of the polynucleotide of claim 8 and the polynucleotide of claim 9 ~~the polynucleotides of claims 1 to 9 and the nucleic acid of claim 10.~~

17. (original) A host cell transformed with the polynucleotide of claim 16.

18. (original) The host cell of claim 17 wherein said cell is a prokaryotic or eukaryotic cell.

19-21. (canceled)

22. (currently amended) An isolated, recombinant or chemically synthesized polynucleotide comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding amino acids 185-217 of SEQ ID NO:2, or the full complement of said nucleic acid sequence.

23. (previously presented) An expression vector comprising the polynucleotide of claim 22.

24. (canceled)

25. (currently amended) An isolated, recombinant or chemically synthesized polynucleotide comprising a nucleic acid sequence or the full complement thereof, wherein said nucleic acid sequence encodes amino acids 123-202 of SEQ ID NO:2 with an arginine to glutamate substitution at residue 200.

26. (previously presented) The polynucleotide of claim 25, wherein said nucleic acid sequence encodes amino acids 68-269 of SEQ ID NO:2 with said arginine to glutamate substitution at residue 200.

27. (previously presented) An expression vector comprising the polynucleotide of claim 25.

28-30 (canceled)

31. (currently amended) An isolated, recombinant or chemically synthesized polynucleotide capable of hybridizing under a ~~stringent~~ stringency condition to a nucleic acid sequence or the full complement thereof, wherein said nucleic acid sequence consists of SEQ ID NO:1, and wherein said ~~stringent~~ stringency condition is selected from the group consisting of conditions A to ~~R~~ A, C, E, G, I, K, M, O, and Q of Table 1, and the length of said polynucleotide is at least 75% of that of SEQ ID NO:1.

32. (currently amended) The polynucleotide of claim 31, wherein said ~~stringent~~ stringency condition is selected from the group consisting of conditions A to ~~L~~ A, C, E, G, I, and K of Table 1.

33. (currently amended) The polynucleotide of claim 31, wherein said ~~stringent~~ stringency condition is selected from the group consisting of conditions A to ~~F~~ A, C, and E of Table 1.

34. (previously presented) A recombinant vector comprising the polynucleotide of claim 31.

35-37. (canceled)

38. (new) The polynucleotide of claim 8, wherein said polynucleotide comprises SEQ ID NO:1.

39. (new) The polynucleotide of claim 9, wherein said polynucleotide comprises nucleotides 202-807 of SEQ ID NO:1.

40. (new) An expression vector comprising an expression control sequence operably linked the polynucleotide of claim 22.

41. (new) The polynucleotide of claim 25, wherein said nucleic acid sequence encodes amino acids 63-269 of SEQ ID NO:2 with said arginine to glutamate substitution at residue 200 in SEQ ID NO:2.

42. (new) An isolated, recombinant or chemically synthesized polynucleotide comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding a β -amyloid peptide-binding protein encoded by the cDNA insert of clone BBP1-fl deposited under accession number ATCC 98617.

43. (new) The polynucleotide of claim 42, wherein said nucleic acid sequence comprises the cDNA insert of clone BBP1-fl deposited under accession number ATCC 98617.

44. (new) An expression vector comprising an expression control sequence operably linked to the polynucleotide of claim 42.

45. (new) A host cell comprising the expression vector of claim 44.

46. (new) An isolated, recombinant or chemically synthesized polynucleotide comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding a β -amyloid peptide-binding protein encoded by the cDNA insert of clone pEK196 deposited under accession number ATCC 98399.

47. (new) The polynucleotide of claim 46, wherein said nucleic acid sequence comprises the cDNA insert of clone pEK196 deposited under accession number ATCC 98399.

48. (new) An expression vector comprising an expression control sequence operably linked to the polynucleotide of claim 46.

49. (new) A host cell comprising the expression vector of claim 48.

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